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Large-scale structure of the fast solar wind

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[1] We present the results of a comprehensive study of the fast solar wind near solar minimum conditions using interplanetary scintillation (IPS) data taken with the EISCAT system in northern Scandinavia, and a recent extremely long baseline observation using both EISCAT and MERLIN systems. The results from IPS observations suggest that the fast wind inside 100 solar radii (R_{\odot}) can be represented by a two-mode model in some cases but this distinction is much less clear by in situ distances beyond 1 astronomical unit ($215 R_{\odot}$). Two distinct fast streams are seen in the extremely long baseline IPS observation; comparison of the IPS line of sight with a synoptic map of white light indicates the faster mode overlies the polar crown and the slower fast mode overlies an equatorial extension of the polar coronal hole.

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1. Introduction

[2] Interplanetary scintillation (IPS) is the rapid variation in the signal received by radio antennas at Earth from a compact radio source arising from scattering by small-scale (~ 100 km) density variations in the solar wind. Measurements of IPS allow the solar wind velocity to be inferred over all heliographic latitudes and a wide range of heliocentric distances [e.g., *Dennison and Hewish*, 1967]. When two radio telescopes are used and the separation of the raypaths in the plane of the sky from source to each telescope is close to the radial direction centered at the Sun, a high degree of correlation between the scintillation patterns recorded at the two telescopes may be observed [e.g., *Armstrong and Coles*, 1972; *Coles*, 1996]. The time lag for maximum cross correlation can be used to estimate the outflow speed of the irregularities producing the scintillation. More sophisticated methods involving fitting the results of a scattering model to the observed auto- and cross-spectra may also be adopted [e.g., *Coles et al.*, 1995; *Coles*, 1996; *Klinglesmith*, 1997].

[3] In weak scattering, the observed scintillation pattern can be treated as arising from the sum of all the scattering events along the raypath. If the raypath passes through two or more streams of solar wind, their contributions are independent and can be modelled separately provided that their location along the raypath can be established. Studies using the European Incoherent Scatter (EISCAT) IPS data set have confirmed that the best results of fitting a weak scattering model to the data [*Coles*, 1996; *Klinglesmith*, 1997] are obtained if regions of the raypath overlying dark

regions in white light observations are assumed to be immersed in fast wind and slow streams are assumed to overlie high intensity white light regions identified with streamers [*Coles*, 1996]. Throughout these discussions we define “polar crown flow” as the central region of the polar fast streams (as seen in interplanetary space above the large polar coronal holes outside of solar maximum) and “flank flow” as the region of fast flow between this crown outflow and the equatorward boundary of the fast stream.

[4] Ulysses observations from the first polar pass (1994–1996) revealed the existence of a latitudinal gradient in the fast wind speed across the polar regions, with the highest velocities measured at the highest latitudes [*Phillips et al.*, 1995; *Goldstein et al.*, 1996; *Woch et al.*, 1997; *McComas et al.*, 2000; *Habbal and Woo*, 2001]. The boundary between the fast and slow outflow measured by Ulysses was located at about $\pm 20^\circ$ around the heliographic equator [*Woch et al.*, 1997].

[5] The most commonly accepted view of the fast wind places its origin within polar coronal holes, at the centre of the supergranular cells [*Dupree et al.*, 1996] or the boundaries of supergranular cells [*Hassler et al.*, 1999]. This view implies a subsequent superradial expansion of the boundaries of the polar outflow so that the fast wind can occupy a significant volume of the heliosphere, as observed by Ulysses at solar minimum. However, using white light, radio ranging and ultraviolet spectroscopic observations in the inner corona, *Woo and Habbal* [1997] and *Habbal and Woo* [2001] suggested that the fast wind originates in the quiet Sun as well as in the polar coronal holes, and that the outflow is predominantly radial. In the latter scenario, the fast solar wind from the quiet Sun wind would be expected to be marginally slower and slightly denser than the outflow from the polar coronal hole.

[6] In this paper we use IPS data from EISCAT [*Rishbeth and Williams*, 1985; *Wannberg et al.*, 2002] taken during the last solar minimum (1994 to 1997) supplemented by in situ measurements from the solar wind observations over the

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poles of the sun (SWOOPS) [Bame *et al.*, 1992] instrument on Ulysses, observations from Large Angle Spectroscopic Coronagraph (LASCO) [Brueckner *et al.*, 1995] and Extreme Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (EIT) [Delaboudiniere *et al.*, 1995] instruments on Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO), as well as images from the Mauna Loa Mk III coronagraph [Fisher *et al.*, 1981], and the Soft X-Ray Telescope (SXT) [Acton *et al.*, 1989] instrument on Yohkoh [Ogawara, 1987; Ogawara *et al.*, 1991] to investigate whether there is evidence of a two-mode structure within the fast solar wind, as originally proposed by Woo and Habbal [1997]. In carrying out this investigation, two main questions were considered: First, is the solar wind best represented by a two-mode fast wind; and second, is the boundary between two modes of fast wind related to the coronal hole boundaries seen in EUV and X ray. We first describe the data (section 2), and the data analysis tools used to infer flow speeds (section 3). The findings are discussed in section 4, followed by concluding remarks in section 5.

2. Observations

[7] Woo and Habbal [1997] suggested that a small step in plasma number density seen in the Ulysses data indicated the presence of two modes of fast wind, with the fastest (and least dense) emerging radially from the polar coronal hole and a second, slightly slower and denser stream emerging from the quiet Sun. An EISCAT observation of the radio source J0741+271 above the north polar coronal hole on 11 July 1995 appeared to be better represented not by fast and slow streams but by a two-mode fast wind, prompting a study into this question. In this study it was important to consider only low-noise, high-latitude data from fast-wind dominated observations of simple, isolated radio sources. To reduce ground noise in the antenna sidelobes, only data from observations at elevation angles of around 10° or more were considered. The scattering model assumes that all the scintillation comes from a single point source. Structured or multiple sources in the beam will give rise to superpositions of scintillation patterns which, at present, cannot be fitted in a manner which is not misleading. The sources used are all primary calibrators at 21-cm wavelength for the “A” configuration of the VLA. Thus they have no decorrelation over 35 km but they could still have a small effect on the IPS, for which the Fresnel Radius at an observing wavelength of 32 cm is approximately 90 km.

[8] For the scintillation to be strong enough for the signal spectrum to be clearly resolved but not so strong as to approach the strong scattering regime in the fast solar wind, only observations for which the point of closest approach of the raypath to the Sun lay between $15 R_\odot$ and $120 R_\odot$ were considered. In the past, this has proven to be the best range when considering mid- to high-latitude fast solar wind observations at this frequency. This eliminates possible distortion of the results by the effects of strong scattering.

[9] In order to detect small variations in the fast solar wind structure, it is necessary to eliminate observations containing a significant amount of slow wind. This was done using a two-stage selection process. In the first stage any observation in which less than 30° of the raypath around the point of closest approach to the Sun lay above

the coronal hole was eliminated (A detailed description of how sections of the raypath are identified as lying above a coronal hole is given in the next section). This provided a quick way of eliminating observations containing a large proportion of slow solar wind. The list of observations was then refined by calculating the proportion of scintillation being generated in the region of the raypath which overlay the coronal hole. Only observations in which more than 85% of the scintillation came from above the coronal hole were considered for the main study. The slow wind was assumed to scintillate 3.5 times more than the fast wind in this calculation: this is likely to be an overestimate, as EISCAT observations suggest that the density variations in the slow wind are normally 2–3 times greater than those in the fast wind over the distance range considered in this study [Fallows *et al.*, 2002], thus giving us considerable confidence that we were indeed eliminating observations which contained a significant proportion of slow wind.

[10] The majority of the IPS observations discussed in this paper were made between 1994 and 1997 using the EISCAT radio telescopes. The receiving frequency was on a 10 MHz bandwidth centered on 933.5 MHz from 1994 to 1995 and an 8 MHz bandwidth centered on 931.5 MHz from 1996 to 1997. A single extremely long-baseline observation combining data taken at 1420 MHz by EISCAT and MERLIN telescopes in northern Scandinavia and the UK, respectively [Bisi *et al.*, 2005; Breen *et al.*, 2006] is discussed in section 4.3.

[11] The Ulysses data used in this paper are hourly averaged SWOOPS ions radial velocity data taken during the first polar pass of the Sun. The data were from the mid- to high-latitude southern and northern polar passes where the solar wind velocity did not dip below 600 km s^{-1} for each hourly averaged data-point used, thus eliminating interaction regions and periods of large variations in velocity seen at the slow to fast wind transition in the Ulysses velocity data.

3. Data Analysis

[12] A weak scattering interplanetary scintillation model allowing for the presence of two solar wind streams in the line of sight has been used for the last decade to analyze EISCAT IPS observations [e.g., Coles, 1996; Klinglesmith, 1997; Canals, 2002]. The current analysis routines perform all fitting to the auto- and cross-power spectra, with the resulting correlation functions displayed for a more convenient visualization.

[13] The power spectrum of the density variations in the solar wind giving rise to IPS is described by a power law with exponent α , cut off by an “inner scale” q_i corresponding to the dissipation scale of the turbulence. Previous studies [e.g., Yamauchi *et al.*, 1996] have found α to vary between 2 and 4 and the inner scale in kilometers to be roughly equal to the distance of the observation in solar radii, although it is not very well determined. We adjust these parameters to match the high-frequency tail of the autopower spectrum, within these boundaries. The density variations are assumed to be anisotropic and normally extended in the radial direction. The model assumes that a fast stream will be present in the central portion of the line of sight, flanked by a slow stream at either end. The slow stream is given an

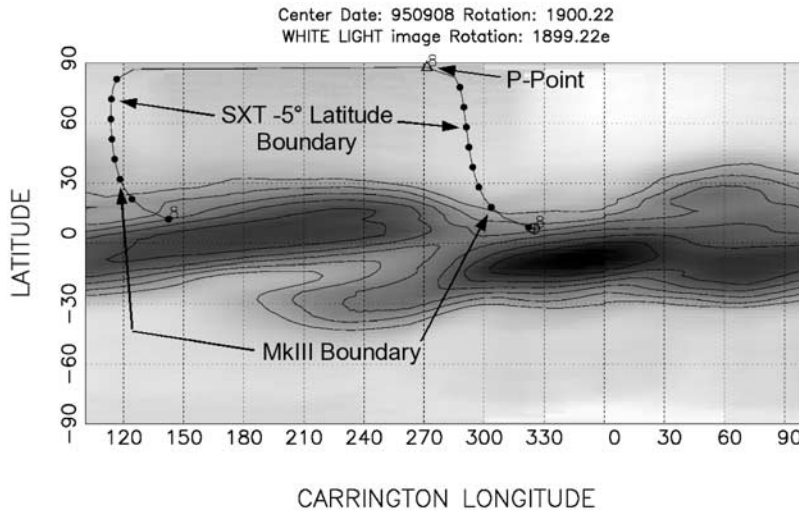


Figure 3. A white light map of the east limb of the Sun, Carrington rotations 1889–1900 centered on 8 September 1995, constructed using data taken from the Mauna Loa MkIII Coronagraph at $1.7 R_{\odot}$ with the IPS raypath mapped onto it and both SXT-5° latitude and MkIII coronal hole boundaries circled as well as the P-point, the point of closest approach of the IPS raypath to the Sun in the plane of the sky.

respectively fitted best with a fast stream width of 21° . The model clearly fits the kink in the cross-correlation function. The quality of fit to the data using each model is best judged by comparing the reduced-chi-square (χ^2_{ν}) parameter, as described in *Reiff* [1983], for the fits. In this example the original two-stream model (two free parameters) gave $\chi^2_{\nu} = 1.69$ and the new three-stream model (three free parameters) gave $\chi^2_{\nu} = 0.99$, indicating a significant improvement in the fit.

[18] The IPS data presented in this paper are therefore analyzed in the following way. Only the mean fast stream velocity and associated δV_{\parallel} are fitted; all other parameters, including those of the slow stream, are chosen such that they best represent the data (in terms of the overall shape of the correlation functions) but are not fitted. The results of these analyses were taken to represent the null-hypothesis result, in which the fast solar wind was best represented by a single stream with some finite variation in flow speed. Next, in order to determine whether the observations could be better represented using a two-mode fast wind, we used the three-stream model to fit two discrete fast velocities and a width in the line of sight for the second stream. All other parameters were left as in the two-stream fit. The quality of fit, as given by the χ^2_{ν} , combined with the values obtained in each fit are used to judge whether the observations are best described by two discrete fast streams. The width obtained for the second fast stream is then used to compare the boundaries of both fast streams with coronal hole boundaries seen in SXT and EIT synoptic maps. However, since this fit restricts the width of the second fast stream to be equal on each side of the line of sight, a further analysis is performed in which the width is set according to the EUV and X-ray coronal hole boundary and only the faster and fast stream velocities are fitted.

4. Results

[19] Both EISCAT IPS observations and SWOOPS data were analyzed as part of this investigation into the structure of the fast solar wind.

4.1. EISCAT IPS Data

[20] The main case results are summarized in Table 1. Of the eight observations that met all of the criteria for a clear fast dominated flow, five of them (with χ^2_{ν} values highlighted in bold in the table) were better fitted using the dual-fast wind model. The faster of the two streams was the stream at the higher latitude of the two streams. In all the remaining cases, neither of the model fits could be preferred over any other.

[21] Only one case showed a best fit when the boundary between fast streams agreed with the coronal hole boundary seen in X-ray/EUV. In all the remaining cases, the model fitting indicated a boundary much lower in latitude than that seen in X-ray/EUV. However, these results do not indicate any strong or systematic relationship between the fast

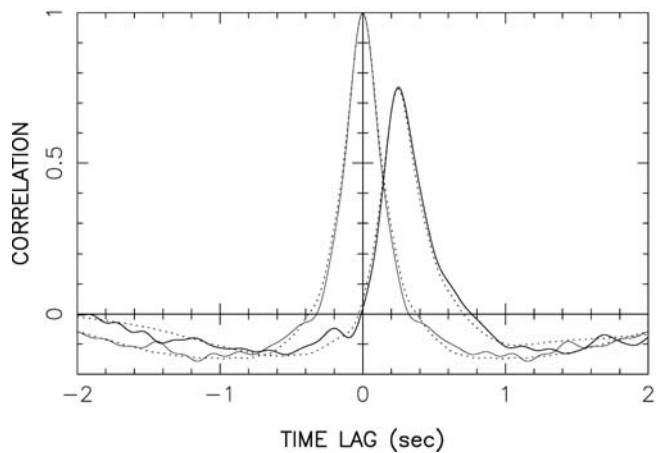


Figure 4. The EISCAT IPS observation of J1120+143 on 8 September 1995, fitted with the three-stream weak scattering model (dotted line). The spectral and slow stream parameters are set as in Figure 2. The faster and fast stream velocities are 895 and 661 km s^{-1} , respectively, with a fast stream width of 18° .

Table 1. Summary of IPS Results

Date	Source	V_{fast}	dV_{\parallel}	V_{mid}	Width_{in}	$\text{Width}_{\text{out}}$	$\text{rms}V$	V_{slow}	θ_{in}	θ_{out}	wtslow	AR	α	q_i	χ_{ν}^2
14 July 1995	J0741+312	754	444				80	300	-65°	70°	8	2.0	3.0	36	2.96
		842		443	31°	31°									1.72
		886		456	35°	40°									2.07
6 September 1995	J1120+143	811	211				0	450	-70°	60°	3	2.3	3.0	35	5.83
		844		548	23°	23°									3.57
		931		755	50°	40°									6.03
7 September 1995	J1120+143	872	210				0	450	-70°	60°	2	2.0	3.0	35	3.70
		895		708	34°	34°									2.90
		929		794	45°	35°									3.15
8 September 1995	J1120+143	872	193				0	350	-70°	60°	2	2.3	3.0	35	1.69
		882		621	21°	21°									0.99
		951		831	50°	35°									1.70
29 May 1996	J0336+323	827	146				0	350	-75°	75°	8	1.5	3.4	57	1.68
		842		738	42°	42°									1.47
		901		827	65°	45°									1.64
8 June 1996	J0521+166	820	126				0	350	-65°	80°	8	1.6	3.2	26	6.59
		867		770	51°	51°									6.22
		856		826	55°	30°									6.49
9 June 1996	J0521+166	774	215				0	350	-70°	80°	4	1.5	3.1	25	3.90
		875		708	54°	54°									3.05
		878		706	55°	55°									2.99
17 August 1996	J0954+177	827	408				0	450	-60°	60°	10	3.5	2.5	8	1.14
		934		609	26°	26°									1.04
		968		644	35°	35°									1.15

stream boundaries inferred from the IPS analyses and those obtained from EUV/X-ray Carrington maps. We therefore consider it important to compare these results with the one and only available set of high latitude in situ solar wind data recorded, the SWOOPS measurements made by the Ulysses spacecraft while making its first polar pass at solar minimum.

4.2. Ulysses Swoops in Situ Data

[22] The Ulysses SWOOPS ions hourly averaged data were “binned” (averaged further) for approximately every 100 data points. In order to restrict the study to fast wind, a low-latitude cut-off point was established at the lowest latitude above which the solar wind velocity never dipped below 600 km s^{-1} in any of the original hourly averaged data points. The data were split into four different sections corresponding to the increasing and decreasing latitude parts of the northern and southern polar passes. Each section was then fitted with polynomials of orders 1 to 3 via a least squares fitting method. A bimodal linear fit (i.e., straight line with a change in gradient) was also performed with the breakpoint between the two linear fits set to a range of latitudes from 75° N/S to 10° from the low-latitude cut-off.

[23] Using the χ_{ν}^2 value as a measure of the goodness of fit, the data appeared to be best represented by the bilinear fit in three out of the four segments and a linear fit in one out of the four segments as shown in Tables 2 and 3, and in Figure 5. It should be noted that in those cases where a bilinear fit gave the lowest χ_{ν}^2 value closest to 1 in Table 2, the improvement of fit gained was generally very small. It should also be noted that in the increasing latitude northern pole case, the χ_{ν}^2 value is always overfitted which is why the straight-line linear fit is taken as the most appropriate in this case. Table 3 gives details of the best least squares fit in each case, along with the latitudes of the polar coronal holes as seen in SXT and EIT.

[24] There was no clear relationship between the latitude of the inflexion point of the bilinear fits and the latitude of

the coronal hole boundary seen in X-ray or EUV emission during the same Carrington rotation. The only clearly significant result indicated a single fast wind with higher velocities at higher latitudes, which is in good agreement with the results of *McComas et al.* [2000].

[25] Figure 6 shows a rough comparison of the two-mode fast IPS best-fitted data and ion SWOOPS data, bearing in mind that the observations were taken at different times and so cannot be taken as a direct comparison. However, they can be used to get the general picture of the two different data sets. To save overcrowding on the plot, only the most significantly fitted Ulysses data from each hemisphere are used. The fast velocities and their associated spread (δV_{\parallel}) from the traditional two-stream model fits are used as an illustration of the range of velocities given by the IPS modeling. δV_{\parallel} was not modelled in the two-mode fast wind model fitting and so no spread in velocity can be inferred from these results. Instead, they are used to illustrate the range of latitudes covered by each fast stream, as determined by the fast/slow wind boundaries and the fast/faster wind boundaries.

4.3. Extremely Long Baseline Observation

[26] Recent developments in the IPS observing technique have included the use of much more widely separated antennas with separations up to 2000 km in the radial baseline, carried out with EISCAT and the Multi-Element Radio Linked Interferometer Network (MERLIN) based in

Table 2. Summary of SWOOPS Ions Analysis^a

Type/Order of fit	South increasing lat.	South decreasing lat.	North increasing lat.	North decreasing lat.
Straight line	2.77866	1.00748	0.48211	1.13374
Two-stage gradient	2.36277	1.00580	0.46569	1.06449
X^2 parabola	2.42265	1.02292	0.47697	1.10716
X^3 parabola	2.39792	1.05332	0.49470	1.11038

^aThe lowest χ_{ν}^2 value closest to 1 are in bold.

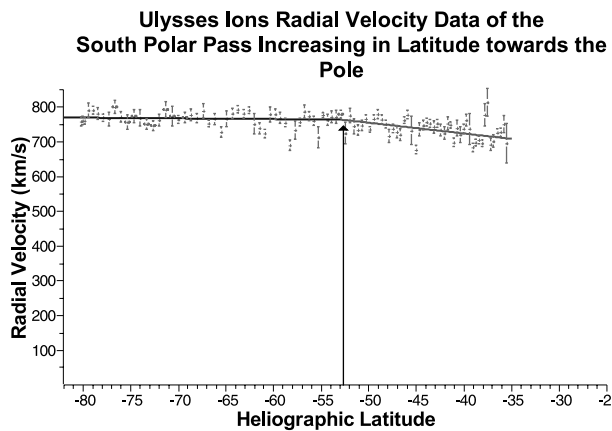
Table 3. Summary of SWOOPS Ions Best Fit Analysis

Variable	South increasing lat.	South decreasing lat.	North increasing lat.	North decreasing lat.
Latitude of change in gradient	$(-52.95 \pm 2.58/-1.50)^\circ$	$(-72.48 \pm 0.48/-0.93)^\circ$	Straight line	$(+31.94 \pm 1.95/-1.04)^\circ$
Date of change in gradient	16 February 1994, 46.60	30 October 1994, 302.23	N/A	11 July 1996, 192.48
Carrington rotation during change in gradient	1879	1888	N/A	1911
Days of year for the Carrington rotation	1994-37.96-65.29	1994-283.24-310.53	N/A	1996-180.70-207.90
Latitude of SXT coronal hole	$60 \pm 10^\circ$	$50 \pm 10^\circ$	$50 \pm 10^\circ$	$50 \pm 10^\circ$
Latitude of EIT coronal hole	Not available	Not available	Not available	$60 \pm 10^\circ$
χ^2_ν of fit	2.362770	1.005800	0.482111	1.064490
Nu	94	26	27	89
Significance Level	$\ll 0.001$	~ 0.450	> 0.990	~ 0.300
Summary	No clear fit	Weak evidence for a bi-modal fast wind	Strong evidence for a single fast wind	Weak evidence for a bi-modal fast wind

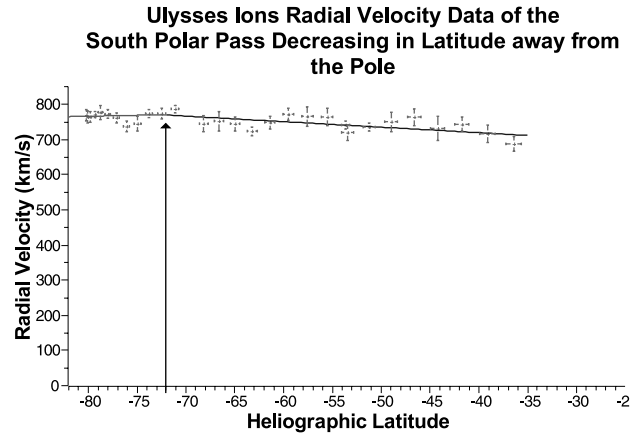
the United Kingdom (this experiment is described further by *Breen et al.* [2006]). The difference between time lags for solar wind speed increases as the antenna separation gets larger. An observation of J0319+415 from 12 May 2004 produced a correlation function that showed two clear fast wind peaks [*Bisi et al.*, 2005; *Breen et al.*, 2006].

[27] This observation strongly suggested the presence of two distinct fast components which could be interpreted in two ways:

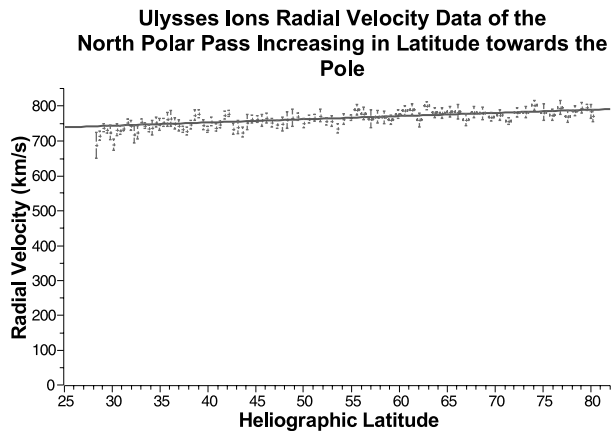
[28] 1. As a region of faster flow from above the polar coronal hole at the crown and fast flow above the quiet Sun; or



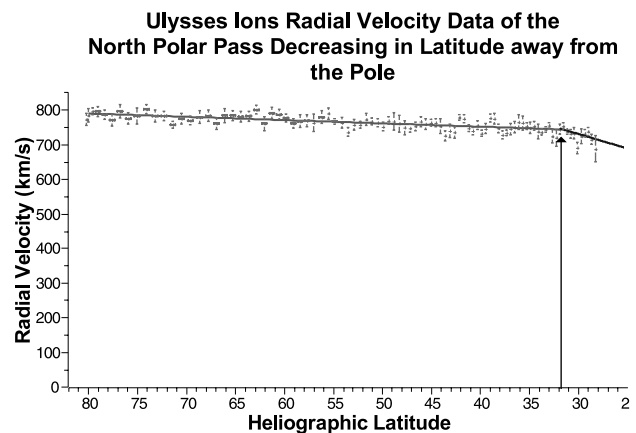
(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

Figure 5. Plots of averaged Ulysses ions radial velocity for the first polar pass. The two lines represent the “best fit” determined by the χ^2_ν fit to the binned data showing that a change in gradient of velocity with latitude fits the data best. The arrow indicates the inflexion point between the two lines. The latitude and χ^2_ν fit values can be seen in Table 3. (a) South polar pass increasing in latitude; July 1993 to September 1994. (b) South polar pass decreasing in latitude; September 1994 to January 1995. (c) North polar pass increasing in latitude; March 1995 to July 1995. (d) North polar pass decreasing in latitude; August 1995 to August 1996.

Comparison of Ulysses and IPS Velocities

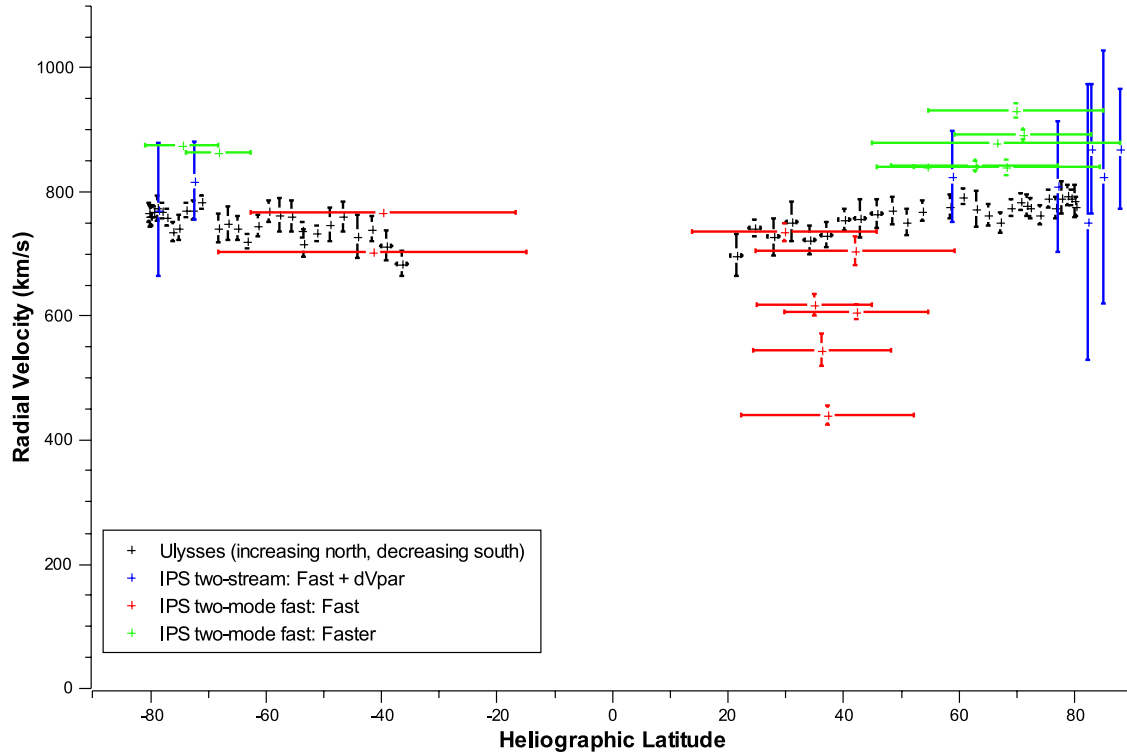


Figure 6. Figure showing the IPS fitted velocity values as a rough comparison to the values of the two most significantly fitted Ulysses SWOOPS ions radial velocity binned data with latitude (south decreasing latitude and north increasing latitude). Two-stream modelled velocities (blue) are included simply as a measure of the range of velocities given by the IPS modeling, using half $\delta V_{||}$ as the error; the latitude given is that of the point of closest approach. The two-mode fast wind modelled fast (red) and faster (green) velocities used are from the best fit from each observation using errors quoted from the least squares fitting routine. The latitude ranges given are derived from the average latitudes of the fast/faster wind boundaries and the fast/slow wind boundaries.

[29] 2. As faster flow from above the whole of the white light coronal hole and fast flow above the equatorward extension of the polar coronal hole.

[30] The outflow from equatorward extensions of coronal holes is generally accepted to be slower than that from large

polar holes [e.g., *Kojima et al.*, 2004]. Figure 7 shows the line of sight projected back along the Parker spiral (assuming radial outflow) and down to the solar corona at $2.5 R_{\odot}$ and overlaying a synoptic map of white light. The geometry of the observation does suggest that the Earthward side of

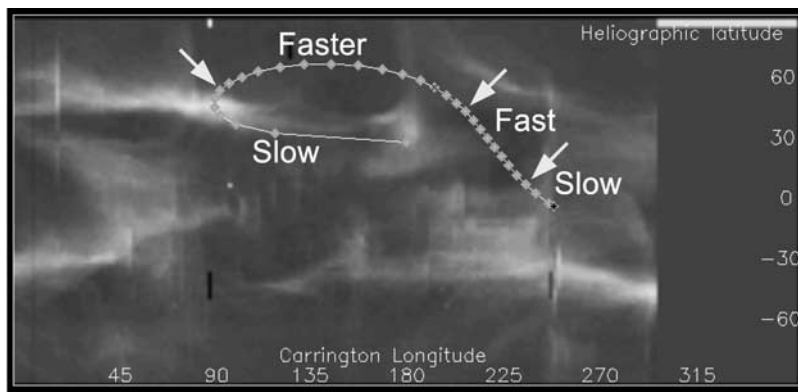


Figure 7. Synoptic map of LASCO east limb white light data from Carrington rotation 2016, overlaid by the IPS line of sight to J0319+415. The arrows indicate the positions of the fast/slow wind boundaries (as inferred from this image) and the fast/faster wind boundary as fitted using the two-mode fast wind model.

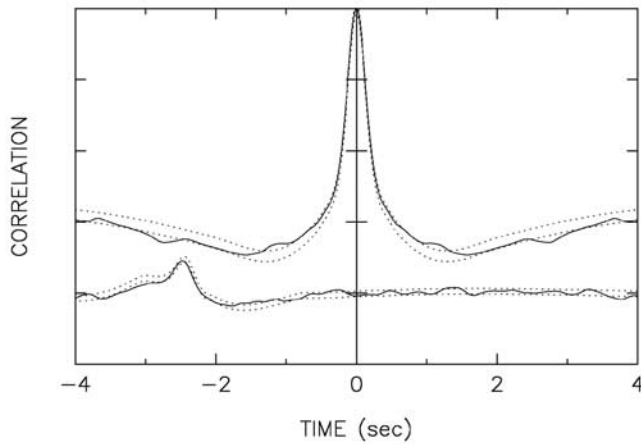


Figure 8. The EISCAT/MERLIN observation of J0319+415 on 12 May 2004, fitted with the two-mode fast wind weak scattering model. Parameters are: $V_{\text{faster}} 766 \text{ km s}^{-1}$; $V_{\text{fast}} 640 \text{ km s}^{-1}$; axial ratio 2.0; $\theta_{\text{in}} -55^\circ$; $\theta_{\text{out}} 55^\circ$; $V_{\text{slow}} 350 \text{ km s}^{-1}$; weighting 5.3; $\alpha 3.0$; inner scale 85.0; fast stream width 40° (Earth end of the line of sight only). The χ^2_ν is 0.51.

the line of sight lies above an equatorward extension of the polar coronal hole. The transition between flow above a large polar hole and that above an equatorward extension would be fairly abrupt and lead to the appearance of two discrete fast components of flow.

[31] To account for this scenario, a further modification was made to the analysis program to allow the width of the fast stream to be fitted on only one side of the line of sight. The IPS data were analyzed using the two-mode fast wind model (Figure 8) and the results are unambiguous: It is only possible to reproduce the shape of the cross-correlation function if the fast stream occupies part of the line of sight over the equatorward extension of the coronal hole. No other scenario would reproduce the correct shape. The stream boundaries in the IPS line of sight, as found in this analysis, are also marked in Figure 7.

[32] This result provides convincing evidence of a greater degree of nonuniformity in the fast solar wind than is seen in the Ulysses/SWOOPS data.

5. Discussion

[33] The results from IPS and in situ measurements reported in this paper provide evidence for a change in character of the solar wind between the polar crown and the equatorward flanks of the fast wind, but IPS results suggest a two-mode fast solar wind more strongly than do the in situ data.

[34] The polar fast wind is faster and appears to vary little with latitude whereas the wind above the lower latitude regions of the white light coronal hole shows a more marked decrease in velocity with decreasing latitude. These results are generally consistent with the Woo and Habbal proposals. However, the Ulysses results suggest a more continuous distribution of solar wind speeds rather than two distinct modes.

[35] Although the majority of the IPS results indicate that a two-mode fast wind model is a better fit to the measure-

ments, the χ^2_ν values are high in many cases indicating that the model still does not adequately describe the data. A possible explanation for this is the steady variation in velocity with latitude of the flanking fast stream, as seen in the Ulysses data at lower latitudes, which has not been included in the two-mode fast wind IPS model. The fact that some observations do not fit significantly better with the two-mode fast wind model also suggests this explanation.

[36] The boundary between fast and faster streams in the IPS lines of sight modelled in the IPS analysis showed no correlation with the coronal hole and quiet Sun boundary seen in EUV and X-ray measurements. This suggests that either there is no distinction between the fast wind emanating from the quiet Sun and the EUV/X-ray coronal hole, or that the individual fast wind components have interacted to a large enough extent for the boundary to be significantly blurred by IPS distances.

[37] The extremely long baseline observation of 12 May 2004 does suggest two distinct modes of fast wind. However, in this case, the raypath extended from above the polar hole into a region above an equatorward extension of the northern hole. Analysis unambiguously indicated that the slower fast stream lay above the equatorward extension of the coronal hole. We therefore propose that the observation is dominated primarily by high-latitude, low-density flow from across the raypath near the point of closest approach, and secondly, by slightly slower higher density flow above the equatorward extension of the coronal hole.

6. Conclusions

[38] The results presented in this paper provide a useful test of the alternative models of fast wind internal structure. They reveal a difference in character between the flow found in interplanetary space above the polar crown and above the flanks of the white light coronal hole, though probably not a sudden transition from one type of flow to another. Within the fast solar wind the latitudinal gradient in velocity in the polar crown stream is considerably shallower than that seen in the equatorward flanks of the fast stream. However, the Ulysses data do not provide significant evidence of a bimodal fast wind, though it could be the case that there is an inhomogeneity in the turbulence that damps out between IPS distances (typically $\sim 50 R_\odot$) and the typical distance of Ulysses (over 10 times that). It can only suggest that there is a difference in character between the polar stream and the flanks of the fast wind.

[39] We suggest that the flow observed above the centers of the polar coronal holes should be regarded as the archetypal fast wind. The change in latitudinal gradient in velocity observed in interplanetary space at latitudes near to those of the boundaries of the X-ray coronal holes may indicate an internal boundary within the fast wind or may simply be the signature of a more gradual change in solar wind properties. The presence of two distinct fast velocities in the EISCAT-MERLIN result strongly suggests a difference in character between the high-latitude fast wind (found above the polar coronal hole) and the flow above the equatorward extension of the polar hole. It is also likely that this difference applies to flow above the centers of polar coronal holes and regions near their equatorward boundaries.

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